From Our Own Correspondent. ALBAST, Saturday, Jan. 29, 1859. The Hon. H. H. Vas Drck, Superintendent of Pub he Instruction, has sent in his annual report to the Legislature, and from proof-sheets he has had the hindness to furnish me, I will make an abstract for

THE TRIBUNE. The report opens with a reference to the law of the last section, "to change the school year and to amend "the statutes in relation to public instruction." This act changes the time for making up the annual reports of Trustees from January to October, and makes the school year commence on the 1st day of October and end on the 30th day of September. The Superintendent thinks the change will be found of great practical benefit, in securing securacy in the returns, as well as omotive of convenience in bringing the expenditures for the Winter and Summer terms of schools within ene year, instead of dividing the former into two sec-tions and incorporating the results in the reports of different years, as heretofore. The Superintendent also notices other good effects likely to result from the

act in question. The whole number of school districts in the State exclusive of cities, as per report made on the lat o October last, was 11,309, and the number of schoolhouses 11,275. The number of districts in the cities is given at 200, but as the schools in the cities are maneged on an entirely different principle, and not by distriete, this indicates more nearly the number of schoolhouses than districts.

The character of the school-houses of the State is as

In the cities				Total.
In the rural districts353 9	707	207 669	15 595	262 11.504
Oct. 1, 1818, tota)	775	876 881 814	619 586 583	11,566 11,534 11,492

The average number of scholars per district, exclusive of cities is 783; average number attending schools in each District during the past year was 534. The average time school was kept, exclusive of cities, was 7 1-5 months. The whole number of teachers employed during the past year was 26,153, of whom 8,266 were males, and 17,887 females.

The following is a summary of the financial reports of the public schools of the State:

17v	
Cities.	Rural Dist.
	<b>\$35,359 \$4</b>
	975,895 \$1
170 84	17,273 18
1,309,765 45	536,777 26
	399,515 50
	32,838 51
#1,804,284 59	\$1,988,654 20
******	1,204,284 59
	<b>6</b> 3,792,948 79
	\$1,445,345 44
. 6,706 89	33,352 97
91,582 36	4,979 58
	2,362 18
420 409 60	295,123, 29
	158,973 81
	48,530 23
	Cities. \$104,703 16 \$71,6047 05 \$170,047 05 \$1,309,765 45 \$1,556 09 \$1,804,284 59 \$1,804,284 59 \$1,852 36 \$5,507 73 \$1,552 36 \$5,507 73 \$1,604,284 50 \$1,605 364 \$1,604,284 50

Increase in State..... #389,809 47

The whole number of volumes in the District School The whole number of volumes in the District School
Libraries is 1,402,253, being more than 207,000 less
than in 1853, and 46,000 less than last year s report
shows. This diminution appears in the face of the
fact that \$330,000 have been appropriated by the
State for additions to the 'ibraries since 1853. Concurrent testimony from various parts of the State represent the District Libraries as little used and rapidly
going to deany, though this state of things deady going to decay, though this state of things does not appear to be universal. The Superintendent suggests that Town Libraries be substituted for the present

The Superintendent deprecates the lending of the school fund to academies and other kindred institutions on pledge of their corporate property, and fears that should the Legislature continue to authorize such loans the fund sacredly pledged to public schools may in the fund sacredly pledged to public schools may in time be scattered over the State and lost to the great object for which it was intended.

The following statement shows the amount of school

Balance in Treasury	857	85
Tetal		61
For the payment of School Commissioners' salaries For District quotas, as per table	\$55.500 415,619	
For Pupil quotas, for Indians 1,026 21	816,699	87
For Libraries for Indians	55,000	

..... \$1,373,711 6 The Superintendent refers to the difficulties caused by postponing the collection of taxes for school pur poses beyond the time fixed by statute, and suggest that the Legislature should not, without the mos

argent reasons, authorize such postponement.
THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL is warmly commended

that the Legislature should not, without the most urgent reasons, authorize such postponement.

The State Normal School could by the Superinter dent, as follows:

"The State Normal School continues to fulfill, with marked ability and success, the objects for which it was established. Its graduates are caserly sought for as reachers in academies, in the higher school of our cities and villages, and the more advanced subcole throughout the rural districts. Standing in the foremest rash of the procession, their influence is saintary in demonstrating the marked superiority resulting from a proper course of training preparatory to entering the teacher's profession, over the application of mabilied powers to the same object. Three hundred and twenty-seven of its graduates are reported, in 1857, as teaching in the common schools of the State.

"The whole number of pipils who have strended the State Normal School for longer or shorter periods, up to September, 1858, in 3,068. The whole number in attendance the part year is 228. The graduates during the part year is 236. The strength of the state of th

shall continue in session during at least ten working days, and requires the attendance of 30 teachers in all counties having a population of 30,000, and of 50 teachers in counties having a greater population, as a prerequisite to the payment of any draft upon the Treasury for the expenses incurred. The Superintendent regards these lestitutes with great favor, and suggests that their efficiency would be greatly promoted were the time of their required continuance extended and a corresponding increase made to the appropriation by which they are sustained.

Thus Dear and Dearm Institutes is thus referred to by the Superintendent:

"There are at present 229 State pupils in the Institution for the Institution the Deaf and Dumb. Of these, 31 have been appointed since the first day of January, 1853. The sum allowed by law for the loard and tuition of each pupils is \$150 per annum."

IN THE NEW-YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND. the State maintains at present 146 pupils, of whom 24 have been appointed since the 1st of January, 1858. THE SCHOOLS FOR EDUCATION OF INDIAN YOUTH, which are supported by the State, are for the most part in a flourishing condition. There are now in operation 23 of these schools, viz: 7 on the Cattaranoperation 23 of these schools, viz: 7 on the Catarangus Reservation, 6 on the Allegany, 2 on the Tuscarora, 2 on the St. Regis, 1 on the Tonawanda, and 1 on the Onondaga Reservation, 2 on the borders of Madison and Oreida Counties, for the benefit of the Oneida tribe, and the other near Sag Harbor for the benefit of the Shinnecock Indians. The publis in these schools exhibit a commendable degree of progress in

schools exhibit a commendable degree of progress in their studies, some comparing favorably with those of their white brethren in adjacent schools. The expenditures for the support of these schools during the past year have been \$5.40118.

DISTRICT SUPPRIVISION.—As there is a disposition on the part of a few country members, and, I trust, only a few, to repeal the beneficial set of 1856, providing for the appointment of a School Commissioner for each Assembly District, I shall quote entire the sensible and vigorous remarks of Mr. Van Dyck in reprehension of such a legislative folly. Mr. V. D. says:

"The system of supervision for the schols through the agency of District Commissioners, instituted in 1856, inough strended with some inconveniences, is yet productive of such hemselicial results as, in my judgment, to render its abrogation highly inexpedient. It is not to be disquised that feelings of hostility pedient. It is not to be disquised that feelings of hostility coward this method of supervision exist in some quarters. This oppognation arises in some cases from notions of economy; in others through ignorance of the extent of duties performed by the Commissioners; and, in a few instances, from an actual neglect of duty on the part of those chosen to the office. For the latter there can be no spology; but if the people have chosen in-efficient Commissioners; the biams should rest where it appropriately belongs, stather than hold the system responsible for a defect far from being inherent, which would milify the operation of the most perfect organization.

"But there are higher considerations than those of a pseudo seconomy or assumed convenience, which forbid an infraction of the present system of supervision. Nothing can be more destrimental to the cause of Common School education than the constant vacillations by which the system has been attended—now under local Inspectors or Commissioners—and under Local Inspectors or Commissioners—and nuder becaular views of the individual in charge, and none left in possession long enough to carry into effect any permanent system of measures. For these and many other reasons that might be adduced, I trust the Legislature will not deem it expedient to alter, in its essential features, the system of school supervision now in operation." The system of supervision for the schola through the agency

AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL LAWS are suggested in a few cases by the Sprenick Laws are suggested AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL LAWS are suggested in a few cases by the Superintendent. Among the provisions of the act passed at the last session of the Legislature, "to amend the statutes in relation to "public instruction," was one authorizing the electors of each district, at their annual meeting, to choose tors of each district, at their anneal metally, to cannot one or three Trustees, as they might by resolution determine. Many districts, availing themselves of this privilege, elected a single Trustee; and so far as the knowledge of the Department extends, the change has in most instances proved satisfactory. In some cases, however, Trustees have subjected themselves to injurious invitations and given rise to dissensions in nowever, Printees have subjected themselves to injurious imputations, and given rise to dissensions in their districts, by the employment of their own children or immediate relatives as teachers in the schools subject to their supervision. As a remedy it is proposed to enact that such school officer shall not em-

posed to enact that such school officer shall not employ a relative as teacher without the assent of a majority of the inhabitants interested.

A great difficulty is frequently experienced in obtaining a site for a school house near the center of a district, it is suggested that a law be passed authorizing districts to obtain, when necessary, such site as they may require by appraisement and confiscation, as in the case of highways, &c. In conclusion the Superinterdent as we

intendent says:
"The experience of another year, and a more extended obsers." inferiorit says:

"The experience of another year, and a more extended observation of the practical condition of the schools, enables me to express a decided conviction as to their improvement in scope, efficiency and usefulness. Though still failing below the standard of excellence that is desirable—though still far short of what we hope to make them, our common schools must, even in their imperfect condition, be regarded as the pride, the hope, the ornament of the State."

Imperiect condition, be regarded as the pride, the hope, the ornament of the State."

The semi-annual exercises of the State Normal School were held last evening, in the Normal School Building. The address before the literary societies was delivered by ANSON G. CHESTER, esq., editor of The Syracuse Daily Journal. His subject was, "Educated Fools," and the address lasted for a full hear. I will write out from my notes a passage in relation to the Lobby, which at this time will command more than ordinary interest. Mr. Chester said:

"I think that those educated Senators and Assemblymen are fools who will consent to be governed or controlled by a corrupt Lobby, rather than by the plainly expressed wishes of their constituents and by their own sense of right. I make no wholesale charge, which includes all who have places in the halls of legislation, but I do ask what in the name of the Prophet does that volume which contains the laws of the State of New-York mean, if all our legislators are incorruptible? That portly volume is filled with the State of New-York mean, if all our legislators are incorruptible? That portly volume is filled with laws, the great majority of which are special enactments, designed to benefit individuals and corporations, instead of the State; and I desire to know how these enactments were obtained if rot through lobby influence. I believe that the lobby in Albany is just as vile and pestiferous a place as exists under God's blue canopy. I believe that it is just as much a 's den of thieves, as was that which was broken up in Jernsalem by the Savior of Men. I almost wonder how the citizens of Albany can exist in an atmosphere that reeks with deadly exhalations. I almost wonder that the churches are not closed; that the voice of prayer is not stifled; that ministers are not drawn and quartered, and that the Lobby is not proclaimed the Herod of this Julea. God is either particularly mercial to Albany, or He in-tends to overthrow our fair State as Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown. The vines of the Lobby must work, sooner or later, unless, indeed a remedy is speedily applied; and from what source that remedy is to emanate, is more than I can tell. I have no disposition to trifle with sacred things when I say that I should not blame the inhabitants of Albany if they

should interpolate, in their daily utterance of the Lord's Prayer, the words 'especially the Lobby,' im-mediately after the words 'Deliver us from evil.' The Speaker received two distinct, hear y and pro-longed rounds of applause at the close of this portion of his addres.

## POLITICAL.

-There is a movement on foot among the Republicans in Pennsylvania to give an expression in favor of Gen. Simon Cameron at the coming State Convention for the Presidency, and thus informally place him in the field, and also to get a united delegation in the National Convention from that State.

-Already a powerful lobby is organizing by the President to carry through the Appropriation bills.

The Cincinnati Gazette says: "The same lobby was in existence at the last session to force through the Deficiency and Army bills. The person employed last year to act as chief of this lobby is employed this, and is already negotiating for a splendid banquet, at which the members of both Houses will be invited. The 'person' is one of Mr. Buchanan's Federal office-bolders in New-York State, and is receiving a large salary."

-The invitation to the Legislature of Ohio to visit Indianapolis during the present session was circulated in the Iediana Senate on Saturday last, and received the signatures of most of the members of that body. The members of the House will probably take the same course, and then we may look out for a grand Legislative -

-The Democratic members of the Illinois Legislature, from Chicage, have proposed a license law which offers the Germans a bribe in the shape of \$25 taken off the usual license fee for selling lager heer and Rhine wipe. The Germans of Chicago spurn this attempt to bribe them. They have held meetings in various Wards in the city, and denounced the movement as an insult.

-Tracy R. Morgan, Cashier of the Broome County Bank (Republican) was elected President of the village of Binghamton by 70 majority, on the 1st. The Republicans also carried four of the six Wards, securing a majority of two in the Board of Trustees. Last year the Democratic candidate was elected by over 200 majority.

-Alfred A. Burnham was nominated for Congress in the Connecticut Third Congressional District on the 2d inst. The vote on the first informal ballot was as follows: Whole number of votes, 104; Alfred A. Burnbam of Hampton, 41; Edmund Perkins of Norwich. 28; Sidney Dean of Putnam, 19; Augustus Brandeges

of New-Lordon, 16. On the nineteenth formal ballot the vote was as follows: Burnham, 52; Perkins, 32; Brandegee, 17. The nomination was then made unanimous.

-There begins to be some talk about the contract alleged to exist between the States of Obio and Indians, that each should forever, unless mutually abandoned, keep the canal which passes through each State in good repair. It will hardly be taken as a substitute for revenues sufficient to keep up repairs.

-In New-Jersey, the question of the appointment of Chancellor still remains undecided, and no nomination will be sent in this week. Gov. Newell admits that in Essex, Union and Morris Counties the public sentiment is very strong in favor of the renomination of Mr. Williamson; but he is led to believe that in other sections of the State the feeling is entirely different. The term of the Chancellor will expire to-day.

-An Extra Session will not save Buchanan's Administration from the dishonor of pecuniary bankruptcy. The President gives out his purpose to summon one in a certain contingency, with much emphasis. Should be do so, says The United States Gazette's Washington correspondent, the session could hardly be called before the 1st of July, because at least sixty days' notice would be required for the special elections that would have to be held under his proclamation. Thirteen States have yet to elect, including California, and exclusive of Oregon, if admitted; so that, under no probable circumstances, could Congress well meet under three and a half months after the adjournment on the 4th of March. And even in that event the Government would be dishonored, insemuch as about \$18,300,000 of outstanding Treasury notes become due before the 1st of July.

## PERSONAL.

-The following declaration has been published, though the need of it is not altogether apparent:

"Having seen a statement in the American news-papers that Madame Mario, late Jessie Meriton White papers that Madame Mario, late Jessie Meriton White, has arrived in the United States, 'recommended by the Brownings,' &c., to lecture on 'Orsini' and 'Italian Politics,' we feel ourselves forced to explain distinctly that, with a strong personal affection and esteem for Madame Mario, and a love for Liberty and the democracy still better known to all who knowns, we yet entirely dissent both from her views of Orsini and her opinions upon Piedmontese Government is leveled also against the general Italian cause. This is the first against the general Italian cause. This is the first time we have noticed a printed observation on our-selves, and only a painful sense of duty constrains us

-The correspondent of The Missouri Democrat sava that Gen. Houston got a document, the contents of which were distateful to him. Instead of throwing it into the fire, as most men would have done, he procured a quantity of tar and feathers, and, smearing the inside of the paper and sprinkling on the feathers, inclosed it in an ample envelope, and franked it to the gentleman who sent it.

-It is said in Albany that Dr. Gould is to succeed the late Prof. Bond, who had charge of the Observatory connected with Harvard University.

-Washington papers announce the illness of Mr. J. C. Willard, senior proprietor of Willard's Hotel, who has suffered from erysipelas for some days, and is now so seriourly affected that his life is despaired of.

-The Trustees of the Indiana University have accepted the resignation of President Daily, and elected Prof. Wiley, Senior Professor, to take charge of the Institution temporarily, until a President should be elected to fill the place. It is reported that Dr. Daily proposes to enter upon the practice of law.

Since Dr. Daily's resignation as President of the State University, a general stampede has taken place among the students. They are leaving by scores, and it is said that in a week there will be searcely enough left to fill a log school-house.

-One of the guests, at a late brilliant party in Washington City, a Mrs. P- of New-York is said to have worn gems worth fully \$100,000, and several others were decked with fortunes in this attractive shape.

-The correspondent of The Cincinnati Enquirer says that the Rev. John A. Gurley, the successor of Mr. Groesbeck in Congress, during his recent visit to Washington, "was a good deal taken aback on observing such Senators as Wade and Hamlin walk to their seats and unburden themselves of a good-sized revolver, and lay the same in their desks, Border "Ruffian fashion." Is truth among the things that this reverend gentleman reveres?

-The Rev. John Long delivered a lecture in Lynchburg, Va., on Sunday last, against lager beer, and attributed the intellectual decay of the German race to the use of that liquid.

-Eugene Scribe, the celebrated and wealthy French dramatic author, who is erecting a mysterious edifice in Paris, in which the resources of architecture have been exhausted, has had the meanness to refuse to fulfill a contract of only 800 francs (about \$150) for six panel paintings by a talented artist, because they did not suit his taste-a circumstance which he could not discover until every panel was completed. The painter has sued him.

-Before the breaking out of the revolution in Hayti, Soulouque paid his soldiers only 60 cents per month He greatly increased this sum upon the commencement of hostilities, but their back pay backed the sons of Mars out of the field. He is nearly without an

-Dickens lately read his "Christmas Carol" at Hastings, England, when, at its close, the effect upon one of the hearers-a miserly, covetous, rich old gentlemar-was such that he at once gave £2,000 to be divided between three useful benevolent institutions belonging to the town. -The Hartford Post, in speaking of Cyrus Butler of

Providence, says he was worth, when he died, some five millions of dollars, yet he lived poorer than most men, not worth one thousand dollars. Sait codfish was a standard dish with him, and even in his last sickness, it is said that he upbraided those who had the care of him for their extravagance in providing delicacies for him, assuring them that he could not afford it. He was a bachelor, and a snuff taker. His snuff he kept in a large box and bought by the cent's worth. There was but one store in Providence, and that on India Point, where he could get his box filled for a cent, and the old man used to patronize that store, more than a mile distant, whenever his box required filling.

-Lieut. Gov. Hammond of Indiana is laid up by severe attack of typhoid fever at Indianapolis.

-"Jenkins" publisher, through The National Intelligencer, the Washington etiquette concerning invitations. Diplomats, when they receive invitations to dine at the Wai'e House, in case they have cards out for a dinner on the same day, withdraw them. A husband can plead an invitation for a dinner where himself and wife are invited, against an invitation to a gentleman's dinner party.

## HATCH vs. RAYMOND.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. Siz: In your paper, this morning, is a note from the

Rev. J. L. Hatch, in which he says: "Allow me to say, in reply to the statement of the editor of The N. Y. Times, in his paper of Wednesday, it is as untrue that he ever told me I might take my "choice between law and let ris" as that you "shaded" my statement out of some other paper. He made me no offer of any knd to publish the note of the Phelma.

Mr. Fhelpa."

I do not know what may have passed between the editor of The Times and Mr. Hatch, in reference to the publication of Mr. Phelpa's note; but I happened to be present, on Tuesday last, when Mr. Hatch asked Mr. Raymond why the note of Mr. Phelpa had not been published. In reply, Mr. Raymond distinctly told him that he should not publish the note until he (Hatch) withdrew the threat of a prosecution, and that he might take his choice between the two methals. that he might take his choice between the two methods of gaining redress. Mr. Hatch replied, in substance, that he would not withdraw the threat of suit, and withdraw himself without further remark.

Fri. 4, 1859.

Tear shell terv't,

C. F. B.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PAGE'S LA PLATA.

LA PLATA, the ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION and
PARAGUAY, By Thomas J. Pace, U. S. N. & vo. pp.
612. Harper & Brothers.
The results of the United States expedition to the River La Plata and the adjacent countries in the years 1853-56, are embedded in this elaborste volume. The explorations of Lieut, Page embraced an extent of about 3,600 miles by water, and of 4,400 miles by land, through Paraguay and the Argentine Confederation. Embarking in the Water Witch, a steamer of 400 tuns, early in 1850, the expedition arrived at Rio de Jazeiro in April, and at Buenos Ayres in May, from which port, after a delay of about three months, they took their departure for the ascent of the Parana. They reached the town of Asuncion on the 1st of October, and, soon after their arrival, Lieut. Page presented his credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who appointed an early hour for an interview with Senor Lopez, President of the Republic

The personal appearance of the President, judging from the portrait in this volume, does ample credit to the means of living in that portion of South America. He is a person of stalwart proportions, with enermous breadth of face, and an expression that indicates a consciousness of being born to command. He received Lieut. Page with his bat on, and, without rising, requested him to take a seat, and to place his hat on the table. This last ceremony, as was afterward discovered, was a special act of condescension, whether to the good looks of the Lieutenant, or in honor of the American epaulettes, does not appear. Lopez is about fifty-four years old, and has never been out of Paraguay. Though ruling under the nominal title of President, his authority is absolute and despotic. Lieut. Page found bim highly intelligent, of considerable reading, and familiar with the policy of foreign governments, but an unserupulous diplomatist, and with little respect for the laws of nations. In conversation he was singularly agreeable, talking with great fluency, and very much to the point. He appeared favorably disposed toward the expedition, and at a second interview, a few days after, promised to furnish all necessary supplies, for the survey of the smaller tributaries of the Paraguay. It required some diplomacy to obtain his consent to the exploration of the main river, but it was at last given, and satisfactory arrangements were made for the assent.

The town of Asuncion (or Assumption, as it is usually written in English) dates from an early period in the history of Spanish America. It was first settled in 1536, and now contains some 12,000 inhabitants. Situated on a gentle elevation above the river, its position is well adapted for commercial purposes, although little scope is given by the Government to individual enterprise. The houses are all of one story. Some of them are large and well constructed, containing six, eight or ten siry rooms opening upon a court. They are built of bricks of a peculiar form and size; the better houses are tiled, the roofs projecting three or four feet beyond the eaves, while the others are built with posts driven into the ground, on which are placed sleepers to support the joists and rafters, with strips of bamboo across, cemented together with mud or mertar.

During his stay in Asuncion, Lieut. Page had his quarters in a nicely whitewashed apartment, in which his servant made daily battle against the fleas by flooding the tile-floors with water. The furniture was simple. It consited chiefly of a cot, with a snowy musketo-net, which bad before done good service during a long cruise in the China seas; two cedar tables, two feet by four, one of which served for dining, the other for books and writing materials; some crockery from the Water Witch. which was arranged in the cupboard with a view to seathetic effect by the cabin boy; and a dozen richly-carved, high-backed chairs, which dated from the time of the Jesuite. The boy aforesaid was chambermaid, butler, and cook. Roast beef, chickens, the delicious mandioca, oranges, grapes, and figs composed the bill of fare, to which fine fish might have been added but for the aversion of the inhabitants to that article of diet.

The expedition left Asancion on the 7th of November, and, after proceeding about forty miles, reached the first point at which they were to take in wood for the steamer. The trees from which this was procured were giants, even in the La Plata forests; others were rare specimens of floral beauty; some were valuable for their fruits, others for their barks. The Algorroba, one of the mimosæ, produces a fruit similar in taste (though smaller) to our honey-pod. It contains a quantity of saccharine mattter, which, after being dried and pounded, is preserved in skins by the Indians; they also make from it a fermented liquor, of which they are very fond, but which is apt to prove unpalatable to strangers. In the Argentine Confederation this fruit furnishes a valuable food for cattle. especially for horses, who thrive upon it so well that if not severely exercised they become too fat for active service.

The width of the Paragusy at this point (lat. 24 54' 32' S.) is 1076 yards. Its general width from Asuncien is from half a mile to a mile-least depth 20 feet, greatest 72. The banks have an elevation of whom! Il feet at the highest rise of the waterthey are well timbered; the woodland extending some distance back, with intervening sections of palm and grass. Fourteen miles further up the river is an extensive estancia of President Lopez. The dwelling is in the usual style of the better class of Paraguay country houses, one story high, very capacious, and built round a court. It stands about a half a mile from the river, in the midst of a palm p'ain, skirted with magnificent and lofty trees. Flocks of sheep, by thousands, came up as night approached. The number of horned cattle on some of these estancias is enormous, and with a free communication to the Atlantic, would be a source of

As the expedition proceeded up the stream, they passed the low grass lands of Capiepomo, where the banks are covered with forests of lofty trees; parasites and epiphytes, with brilliant and fragrant bloom, twining around the huge trunks, and birds of gay plumage enlivening the woods with their merry song.

On approaching Concepcion, now a small town of about 2,000 inhabitants (lat. 23 23 56'), the Water Witch was an object of great curiosity and interest, not only to the inhabitants of the town. but to those of the surrounding country. People from a long distance in the interior flocked to see the wonderful bark. Men, women and children crowded on board, and would sit for hours under the awning of the deck, astonished and delighted at all they saw, and eagerly questioning the old Guarini pilot as to the meaning of many things to them so incomprehensible. Nor did they fail to greet the strange guests with due hospitality.

We were invited on the first evening of our arrival to a ball a; the Commandante's, where were assem-

bled all the beauty and distinction of the place. The floor of the ball-room was of tile, the lights tallow; indeed, there was little to meet a cosmopolitan standard of elegance, but the good-breeding and nather tact of the people made it an occasion of erjoyment to us all. There is no village or region of the earth so small or remote as not to have its "upper ten." The knowledge of this fact placed me in a dilemma. Being the "Senor Commandante," I was expected to select, as a partner for the walts, the most distinguished lady present. When all looked alike, it was impossible to discriminate: a mistake would have been a national insult. In this quandary, I placed myself in the hands of the Commandante, who dashed off to a formidable row of females at the upper end of the room, from where he brought forth a partner, assuring me she danced divinely. This I could not doubt, for what woman in Spanish America can't waltz, and waltz well.

where he brought form a partier, essential he danced divinely. This I could not doubt, for what woman in Spanish America can't waltz, and waltz well! but was she one of a class so often found in this country, that "never tires!"

The music began; off we started, followed by the officers of the Water Witch, and all the belies and beaux of the town. Round and round, whirl and whirl—"Brave, Señor Commandante!"—the invariable ex-"Brave, Senor Commandante"—the invariable ex-clamation of our host as we passed—began to sound faintly in my ear; on, on we few; I no longer sup-ported the lady; she carried me round. Was I about to realize the theory of perpetual motion? Sights and sounds were growing dim and confused, when, perhaps aroused by the noisy "brave" of the Commandante, I gathered my failing strength, broke away from the fair lady, and beat a retreat from the room. I was fairly denoed down.

Fairly danced down.

Wen I returned after a few moments' absence, the Senorita had found another partner, and was whirling again, looking as fresh and smiling as if just beginning the dance. The refreshments consisted of cakes, red wine, cain, and, above all, the important and refreshments consisted of cakes.

g maté. The following evening was passed in a similar man-The following evening was passed in a similar manrer at the house of "Senor Tachiera, a Brazilian.
Senor Tachiera had been a déteau of Francis, and
speke feelingly of his efforts, and the consuming desire, during that detention, to return to Brazil. At last
he resigned himself to his fate, married a Paragusyan,
and had a large family around him. "Now," said he,
"I have taken deep root in the soil, and shall never
see Brazil again. Indeed, the laws oblige him, eren
now, to take root in the soil, or "abanton his wife",
for no woman can leave the country without permission of the President, a favor not easily obtained. He
gave me a small box of the resin of the "Palo Santo gave me a small box of the resin of the "Palo Santo for the President of the United States, nearly put up and accompanied by a note, which I forwarded by the first opportunity to the Navy Department. This kindhearted Brazilian and his family were indefatigable in their efforts to amuse us the daughter danced and smoked with a vivacity that were charming; for the usages of the country make smoking admissible to all, usages of the country make smoking admissible to all, men, women and children; and dancing is the amuse-ment of Spanish America.

The utmost limit to which the expedition were permitted to secend, by the Brazilian Government, was the little settlement of Corumbs, about lat. 190 26 S., from which they started on their return, Dec. 1, reaching Asuncion for the second time Dec. 20. Of the society of Asuncion, we have a lively

The better class of society in Asuncion consists of a few amilies of Spanish origin, among whom there are not many individuals who could meet, according to our ideas, a good educational standard, though the men possess a vast deal of suariter in molo, and the women are graceful and talk amazingly well. They have much talent for narration, and will give jaguar and Indian stories with infinite spirit.

Madam Lopez resided at a quinta, about six miles from the town. The distance afforded a pleasant ride, and we were always kindly received by the Señora and

Madam Lopez resided at a quinta, about six miles from the town. The distance afforded a pleasant ride, ard we were always kindly received by the Señora and her fair daughters, who have all the case of manner and tact which is so attractive in the Spanish-American women. In the half dozen families of the city that formed the circle of our acquaintance we were always hospitably received, and with several of them our social intercourse was truly agreeable. Foreign articles of fema e attire are replacing the primitive fabrics, which the arbitrary decrees of Francia obliged all to use. The laces of France and Belgium are superseding the elaborate domestic cotton productions of earlier days, which are now only used as trimmings for bed furniture, or are bought by foreigners as curious specimens ture, or are bought by foreigners as curious specimens of females handicraft. In the houses of the wealthy, at Asuncion, the house-linen is tastefully decorated

with these domestic laces,
At the capital, and indeed at all the river towns of
La Plats, a pretty custom prevails among the Senor-At the capital, and indeed at all the river towns of La Plata, a pretty custom prevails among the Senorius, of presenting every visitor with flowers. Their garders may not display a large collection, but if they produce but a single sprig of sweet odor it is given to the first comer. In calling at different houses in the course of the afternoon, the visitor would accumulate quite a number of bouquets, did he not learn from experience that, to save himself from a broadside of graceful represences; it would be advisable to approach perience that, to save himself from a broadside of graceful reproaches, it would be advisable to conceal or part with the flowers of Schorits Maria before en-tering the presence of Schorits Theresa. Each lady must suppose that she is the sole object of the after-

on's homage.

We were invariably offered refreshments, either We were invariably onerer faresonment, enter mate or English ale, which is very popular among the Paraguayans, and throughout the river towns—or the panales, a very refreshing domestic drick, made of the white of eggs and sugar beaten together, and formed into cakes of a cylindrical shape, looking like a deli-cate honeycomb. A little negro presents the visitor with a plate of these, always with a glass of water; the narales imported in the water discolves immediwith a plate of these, always with a glass of water, the panales immerced in the water dissolves immediately, and affords a simple but delicious beverage. The servant after offering this goes out, but soon returns with the brasero—a small brass vessel containing a lew coals of fire—and a plate of eigars. This last hospitality is offered in every house, however humble its pretensions in other respects; and all men, woman and children—delicate, reflued girls, and young masters who would not with us be promoted to the alguly pantaleons—smoke with a gravity and gusto that is irresistibly ludicrous to a foreigner. My son sometimes accompanied me in these visits, and was always greatly embarrassed by the pressing offer of cigars. I made his excuses by saying, "Smoking is a practice we con-

ly embarrassed by the pressing offer of cigars. I made his excuses by saying, "Smoking is a practice we consider injurious for children." "Si, Señor," the Paraguayan would reply, "with all other tobacco, but not with that of Paraguay."

On no occasion, while in Asuncion, were we invited to "dine out," or take tea; and dinners by invitation, or meals taken socially with other families, are unknown. I had frequently visitors waile at breakfast, but never could prevail on one to join me at table. The Paraguayans rise early, take mate and cigars, then visit or transact business during the cool of the morning. At midday they dine, then retire for a siesta, during which the streets are deserted, every store and dwelling closed, and a profound stillness are reopened, cigars and mate are again served, and each one goes to his daily vocation. Riding, visiting, or walking occupies the time from sundown till 9 o'clock, when supper finishes the labors and enjoyments of the day. ments of the day.

After obtaining permission from the President to visit the interior of Paraguay, the travelers started in high spirits for the pleasure jaunt.

On the 6th of February, 1854, in the afternoon, our party moved off, much to the amusement of a crowd of men, women, and children, who had assembled to see sailors on horseback. A gentleman who knew the country thoroughly had given me some general written directions as to the best places for siests and rstopping at night. The first named was the Estan-ia Cervalian, about eighteen miles from Asuncion. Many estancieros in Paragnay reside permanently in Many estancieros in Paragnay reside permanently in the country, where they have spacious adobe houses. Don Jaimi Corvallan was one of this class of country gentlemen, and one of wealth and respectability. A friend having notified him of our intended visit, he came out to meet us as we rode up to the house, invited us cortially to enter, and presented us to his wife and daughter, who welcomed us kindly, and busied them-selves with the preparation of what proved a sump-trons support. ous supper. Paraguayans of all classes observe the sensible and

conomical habit of serving one dish at a time, though ometimes a single article of food will furnish material for half a dozen courses. All are varied by nice

on the present occasion we had "pucharo" (stewed beef with vegetables, "asado" (roast beef), poultry, mandicca, and a "dulce"—a term comprehending a thinga in this case a simple but variety of sweet things-in this case a simple but very nice preparation of milk and sugar. After rigars and a chat with Don Jaimi, we were shown to our eleeping apartments, where we found beautifully clean bees and white cotton hammocks, with elaborate

clean bees and white cotton hammocks, with elaborate net-work trimmings.

At an early hour the following morning we were astir and ready for a start. The servant who awakened us served at the same time a mate; and when we were ready to mount, a little negress came forward with a large goblet of foaming milk, fresh and warm from the cow: Our kind host accompanied us for some distance. And now, realizing that we had fairly commenced our journey into the interior of the country, we felt much pleased with this first experience of its hospitalities.

of the country, we felt much pleased with this first experience of its hospitalities. The road we followed was good, but sandy, and lay through a populous campo. After passing Ytigua, a publita with a neat little chapel, we reached Periju in about three hours, and stopped for breakfast. This village is beautifully situated at the base of a ridge of wooded hills, and has its plaza and church. To the east ranged lofty sierras, and between them and the serranias lay the fertile campo through which we had traveled, winding beyond reach of the eye, and dotted serranisal by the tertile campo through which we had traveled, winding beyond reach of the eye, and dotted with estadcias and herds of homed cattle, or with small fields of corn, tobacco, and mandicos. The meal at Perijë, which served both for break-

fast and dinner, consisted of beef, chickens, and mandices; the latter a general substitute through the country for bread. Our route from this place still by through a level grazing country, its monotony relieved by superb woodlands. Passing the village of Pareguayri, we stopped for the night at the house of Schora Dalmacia Fercandez. Fastive sounds reached us as we approached—the jingling of guitars and daccing. We had disturbed a merry making, and met with a cold reseption. It was too late to look for other quarters, and fatigued by a long day's ride, I was indisposed to excuse this want of hoptishity by remembering that our arrival had interrupted the dance. I revenged myself by an an rapted the dance. I revenged myself by an anhibition of independence which was. I fear
all lost on the seniors; for, refreshed
by a bath in a small river that meandered
through the campe, and wrapped in poncho and
shawl, I settled myself for the night, quite unmindful of after invitations to supper and bed.
The vaccasse had especial instructions to never mindful of after invitations to supper and bed. The vaquesno had especial instructions to pay for all accommodations which the party received; and at five o'clock the next morning we left with a smile, a courtesy, and an adios señor, from Señora Dalmacia, that would have "taken aback" an old Spaniard. But I was unmoved, and went on my way with a stiff how and a determination never again to seek shelter from storm or starvation at the

again to seek shelter from storm or starvation at the house of this fair widow. We passed a wooded spur of the sierra, and, after a ride of twenty-one miles, bungry and fatigued, stopped at the Estancia del Estado, about one mile from the Rio Hondo, a small tributary of the Tibiquari. Here two of our cargare herses, with the dagnerreetype in-struments, broke down, but we were farnished with fresh animals to take us to the house of Senor Jose Dolores, our resting-place for the night.

Passing the Capilla Ybetimi, we arrived, about dusk, at Don Jose's. He was absent, but we were kindly received by the son, who hired us fresh berses to Villa Rica. As early on the following morning as the lagi-

ness of our vaqueane would allow, we were on the road, and in a short time reached the Tibiquarinia (Little Tibiquari), the principal branch of a rivero that name. After fording this stream, which was tro-hundred yards wide, and from two to three feet deep, we entered the Partido Ytape, and breakfasted at the

we entered of Scher Manuel Vasquez.

We arrived at Villa Rica.

Having letters for a Portumese merchant, Der Louis Hornas, I at once songhi me residence, wishing to conscut him about quarres for our party. Heinsisted that as many as could a accommodate! should remain at his house, while for the others he found to the constant of the ledging. I had no wish to but he would only comp-to find rooms for us elsematters by agreeing provided we would spitality of Don Louis take our meals with him. was only surpassed by I Though an active merchai a dustry and intelligence, berticulture, mechanics, coupled his leisure hour, and the rearing of horse A garden well stocked wi "delicious fruits, improved machinery for crashing sugar, and some fine horses, were shown us with eviden pride. His racers were really noble animals, though they may not have possessessed the "blood and beets" of Eclipse or Henry, Señor Homan also takes an intelligent interest in the

Senor Homan also takes an invelopent interest in the native products of the country. His house, like all those of the better class at Villa Rica, was of adobe, and of one story. The furniture was made of Paraguay woods, such as Morosimo and Tatayba, both of which have a very nice texture, and are susceptible of high polish. The Morosimo is not unlike managany; the Tataybi is of a delicate straw color. I am indebted to him for some beautiful specimens of the gum " Mostitimbaby," which is amber-colored, clear, and apparently as hard as crystal. It is soluble only in nitric acid. The upshot of his observations on this tour is

succinctly stated.

The upshot of his observations out this tour a succinctly stated.

I had now, by a circuitous route, traveled 600 miles, through what was represented to me as the most populous districts of Paraguay, and found them every where abounding in natural resources. Science has made no progressive innovations in the processes of culture. The agricultural and mechanical implementare still of the rudest description; the plows are of wood; cotton is spun and woven by hand-looms; sugar-cane is pressed in wooden mills; and cigars are manufactured by families at their own dwellings. The actual products are undoubtedly meager, when we consider the adaptation of both soil and climate to agriculture; and yet the aggregate amount, even under the present primitive system, is considerable. The indigenous vegetation is extraordinarily prolific. Forests and plains teem with medical and edible plants, gums, resins and dye-stuffs. Many woods possess the value of metals, in their power to resist the action of water and atmosphere. The fibrous tissues of several abundant species of alee furnish a new raw material for manufacturing enterprise. The yerba, as the experiments of the Jesuits proved, can be grown in quantities to meet any demand. I might be suspected of exaggeration if I should enumerate the many articles, such as caoutchouc, wax, palm oil, indigo, caton, rice, sugar and coffee, that could be added a staple commodities to those named, as legitimately recognized in the trade of this country. Indigo, though cultivated to a most limited extent, might become one of the most valuable articles of export. There are several varieties growing wild, and ther come one of the most valuable articles of export.

There are several varieties growing wild, and their quality, so far as tested, seems little inferior to the cultivated plant. According to Azara, silk could be produced, as the mulberry is indigenous.

Our space forbids us to follow the narrative d Lieut. Page at greater length, nor is this the place to discuss the commercial and political relations d the expedition. The addition which it has made to our knowledge of the geography, natural history, and manners and customs of Paraguay is by no means inconsiderable, and the value of it is eshanced by the intelligent and agreeable manner in which it is communicated.

## THE VARICK STREET HOMICIDE

Coroner O'Keefe yesterday held an inquest at the New-York Hospital on the body of Martin O'Bries, the young man who was shot in the butcher's shop of Henry Ford, No. 202 Varrick street, last Tuesday evening, by Mr. Ford, the proprietor of the place Only four witnesses (including the Physician) were examined, and the testimony was somewhat conflicting.

Patrick Hannegan and John Campbell, associates d O'Brien, and who were with him at the time of the affray, swore that Ford fired the shot without any ju-tifiable provocation, but the Jury, it seems, attached but very little credit to what they said.

Frederick Ford, an intelligent lad, twelve years of age, son of the accused, who was present at the time the fatal occurrence, testified, and as the Jury believed, truthfully, in regard to the affair.

age, son of the accused, who was present at the time of the fatal occurrence, testified, and as the Jury believed, truthfully, in regard to the affair.

Below will be found a synopsis of the evidence addiced before the Coroner and the Jury:

Patrick Hannegan deposed—I reside at No. 191 Varick street; I met the deceased on the evening of February about 6; o'clock, in company with John Campbell; we waited up Hudson street, and had a drink in a porter house, and the proceeded to another potter house and had two drinks sale after which deceased which to go home; on our way home stated to go to the corner of Hamersley and Varick street, and on our way there we stopped at the butcher's shop in Variat street, near Hamersley; at toe door of the shop the prisons met us with a cleaver and knife, and demanded two cents at the deceased was about to give the two cents to him, the prisons met us with a cleaver and knife, and demanded two cents at the deceased was about to give the two cents to him, the prisons of the shop and took some pleakes without asking for them, shot him; I am not acquainted with the prisoner.

John Campbell, deposed—I reside at No. 68 Vall Dam street, on the evening of Feb. I, about 6; o'clock, I was is company with deceased on the conner of Hamersley and Variet street; affects of the prisoner of Charitas and had a drink; we then went to the corner of Charitas at Hamersley at the cars; on our way there we stopped and had two drinks each; from there we went toward Hamersley attreet to take the cars; on our way there we stopped and had two drinks each; from there we went toward Hamersley attreet to take the cars; on our way there we stopped and had two drinks each; from there we went toward Hamersley attreet to take the cars; on our way there we stopped and had two drinks each; from there we went toward Hamersley attreet to take the cars; on our way there we stopped and had two drinks each; from there we went toward Hamersley attreet to take the cars; on our way there we went toward Hamersley and one of